

VOL. III

NO. VIII

It's Smart To Be Gallery Wise!

THE WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

NEWS FLASHES

June 15th 1937

The installation of the air cooling system at the Gallery should be complete by the first of July and should make the building one of the most popular spots in Kansas City during the hot summer months. A number of galleries are being changed and interesting exhibitions are being installed which will invite the visitor to frequent trips to the Gallery.

During the summer months of June, July, August and September, the Wednesday evening openings and the weekly lectures will be discontinued.

SUMMER EXHIBITIONS: Gallery 2 will be installed with a series of European decorative arts, including furniture, paintings, textiles and ceramics. The permanent collection will be drawn on for these, as well as furniture from the Chapman Bequest, the fine William and Mary Highboy presented by Mr. and Mrs. Burnap and an English satinwood Regency Sofa given in memory of Jeanne Eagles which will be exhibited for the first time.

In the Central Loan Gallery, Chinese Decorative Arts will be installed, including Coromandel Screens, Lacquer Ware, furniture, textiles and ceramics. A pair of Sang de Boeuf Vases presented by Miss Frances M. Logan will be shown. Exhibited for the first time will be a series of painted panels, twelve devoted to flowers and ten to birds, dating from the 17th century. These form a continuous composition and were no doubt originally painted for screens.

Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Burnap have just made a most important addition of twenty pieces to their collection of English Slip Ware and their entire group of almost fifty examples will be exhibited in Gallery 19 for the summer. This is now the most important group of Slip Ware outside of England and contains decorated Dishes, Posset-Pots, Cradles and Tygs or cups with many handles. The Posset-Pot was for drinking the hot milk curdled with liquor, while the Tyg was used for more convivial drinking and the custom was to pass it from guest to guest, each person taking a different handle. Some of them have pegs placed at certain distances and no one was supposed to drink below his peg. The expression "take a rival down a peg" came from this custom of drinking from a Tyg.

Many of the dishes are signed by the makers, such as Ralph or Thomas Toft or Ralph Simpson, who often left the "p" out of his signature. Usually they depict the contemporary sovereign, and one very fine one shows the king being crowned by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Another favorite motif was "The Pelican in Her Piety" and one of the most striking depicts a hare jumping over an obstacle. They are all marked with the virility of a primitive craft and it is a signal honor to be able to exhibit this remarkable collection.

Gallery XVIII has been installed with a group of European porcelains and silver from the permanent collection and examples of English China from the Chapman Bequest. Exhibited for the first time is a stamped Shawl of European manufacture but imitating a Cashmere design which has been presented to the Gallery by Mrs. Bertha Glasner. It is of particularly timely interest as it was given by Queen Victoria to one of her ladies-in-waiting at the time of her marriage to Prince Albert. The one hundredth anniversary of her accession to the throne is on June 20th, of this year. It is gossamer-like in weave, and so fine that it is called a ring shawl as it can be drawn through a finger ring.

June 15, 1937

PRINTS AND DRAWINGS: A group of etchings and lithographs by Whistler has been hung in Gallery XV. This includes his famous Thames Set and the Venetian Series. Technically, Whistler remains the greatest etcher the world has ever known, but he excelled also in the more delicate medium of lithography and the permanent collection contains all his finest plates. Included in the group are the well-known "The Luxembourg Gardens", "Confidences in the Garden", "Savoy Pigeons" and "Limehouse".

For the summer months, Gallery XVI has been installed with a comprehensive group of prints again from the permanent collection. This will include outstanding examples by Master E.S., Schongauer, Van Meckenem, Durer, Cranach, Mantegna, Pollaiuollo, Duvet, Rembrandt, Tiepolo and Goya. These have not been exhibited all season and the visitor will again be struck by the richness and variety of the permanent print collection.

A group of our finest drawings will be placed in Gallery XIII for the summer and will include examples by Jan Steen, Van Dyck, Boucher, Dumonstier, Fragonard, Ingres, Claude, Watteau, Bandinelli, Perugino, Piazzetta, Tiepolo and Veronese.

Gallery XXIV has been installed with a series of landscape prints by the Japanese artists Hiroshige and Hokusai from the permanent collection.

MASTERPIECES OF THE MONTH: For the month of June, the Masterpiece is the terra cotta sculpture, "Christ Supported by an Angel" by the Italian artist Alessandro Algardi of the 17th century. Typical of the Baroque spirit, it is a sensitive and personal study made by the artist, perhaps to be carried out later in stone or bronze. Algardi, who ranked next to Bernini in this period, was born in Bologna but did most of his work in Rome, where he was the favorite of Pope Innocent X. Here he did many sculptures for Saint Peters and other Roman churches, imbuing them with an almost classical feeling yet they are truly Baroque in the emotion and drama which they portray.

A superb velvet and gold "Cope" of Venetian provenance and dating from the Gothic 15th century will be featured as the Masterpiece for the month of July. It is one of the finest Gothic textiles in America and in its pattern it shows the strong Oriental influence which always prevailed in Venice during this period. The cope is the semi-circular outer garment worn by the ecclesiastics and at this time summed up the richness and opulence of the church with its lavish use of gold and sumptuous weaves of brocade and velvet.

LOANS: Haarlem, the birthplace of Frans Hals, is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Hals Museum with a comprehensive exhibition of the artist's work. Our "Portrait of a Gentleman" was invited and as a gesture of friendship to Holland, it has been sent to Haarlem where it will remain until September. In all, 35 canvases were sent from the United States with a total value of several millions.

Paris is staging its first comprehensive exhibition of the work of El Greco as a celebration of its great International Exposition. King Carol of Roumania is the president of the honorary board and has invited our "Penitent Magdalene" as one of the most important examples of the artist's later period in America. With a number of other examples from American museums, it has been sent to represent Kansas City at the great Exposition which unfortunately will not have an official group of American paintings.

For its annual summer exhibition, the San Francisco Museum of the Legion of Honor is presenting a large group of paintings and prints by Goya. Not only has our fine portrait of Don Ignacio Omulryan Y Rourera been lent, but also our unique series of the Caprices which has the distinction of having comments in contemporary handwriting which describe these inscrutable aquatints in which Goya assailed the weaknesses of his day.

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The Berkshire Museum of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, is celebrating the opening of a new wing with an exhibition of landscape paintings to which our Claude "Landscape With Piping Shepherd" and our Corot "Villa of the Parasol Pine" have been lent.

The Great Lakes Exposition at Cleveland has been extended for another year and the Museum there is holding a large exhibition of American Painting. For this, our Fuller "Hannah", which the artist felt was one of his finest canvases, has been lent.

GIFTS: There has been presented to the Gallery in memory of Mr. Massey Holmes, a fine American painting by Colin Campbell Cooper. It is entitled "Columbus Circle, New York City", and shows that central spot of the great metropolis in the second decade of this century. It is an interesting comment on the Circle whose architecture has changed greatly today. The artist has caught the very individual light of New York City in the beautifully painted sky, and the tall buildings are bathed in the warm glow of an afternoon sun. Busses, taxis and pedestrians suggest the constantly moving traffic of a great city.

CHILDRENS SUMMER CLASSES: The summer classes for children will begin on June 17th and will meet from ten to twelve every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday through the thirty-first of July. The following classes are offered in the summer schedule:

Drawing: Class A, 12 years and over
Class B, 10 - 11 years
Class C, 7 - 9 years
Clay Modeling: 10 years and over
General Crafts: 10 years and over
Gallery Games: 7 - 9 years
Marionettes: 10 years and over

An enrollment fee of \$1.00 covers admittance for the twenty lessons. In certain classes children may be asked to buy materials, a charge which should not exceed thirty-five cents. The enrollment in all classes is limited.

STAFF ACTIVITIES: Mr. Sickman, Curator of the Oriental Department will teach the course on "Problems in Chinese and Japanese Art Through the Medieval Period" at the Harvard University Summer School.

Miss Jackson, Secretary to the Director, has been awarded a grant for study and is at present in the East where she will spend a month studying Colonial American Architecture and Furniture. Her itinerary will extend from Charlestown, South Carolina to Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Miss O'Donnell and Miss Nelson of the Junior Education Department are at present making a tour of the museums of the country to investigate their educational activities. They will return for the opening of the summer classes on June 17th.

Mr. Wittmann, Registrar, has been granted a Carnegie Scholarship for graduate work at the Fogg Art Museum summer school.

A similar scholarship has been awarded to Donald Mishe, the Guard in the Chinese Room.

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